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WILLIAM MILLER

1 ... MR. MILLER: My name is William Miller. I'm professor of nuclear engineering at the University of Missouri in Columbia. I'm a Licensed Professional Engineer in the state of Missouri and a certified health physicist. I encourage the timely completion of Yucca Mountain for the disposal of spent nuclear fuel. As stated in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, a central repository is far safer than having spent fuel stored at 72 commercial plants and five U.S. DOE sites in 36 states, and I concur with the statement.

I also encourage the continued development of a safe transportation system based upon both the significant history of shipping technology and actual nuclear shipments to move fuel from our nuclear reactors to the Yucca Mountain site. Some may suggest because of professional affiliations that I have a bias in this statement, and it is true that I do have a bias. However, it's because myself and my family live within about a mile and a quarter of I-70 and I work within about a mile and a half of I-70, so I spend basically 24 hours a day next to one of the major proposed routes for the shipment of this fuel, so mine is not a casual opinion.

2 However, I have seen the crash test films of trucks and trains containing casks smash into solid concrete walls at 80 miles an hour and know that even if an accident might happen, no nuclear material will escape. My favorite video which I have showed to my students many times is the British cask tests where a cask was derailed in a test experiment and run over by a train at 100 miles an hour and watched by 1,500 invited guests and media, the cask was not breached. I'm also aware of the planning that is required in current day's shipments by local, state and federal officials for these shipments, the training requirements for shippers and personnel, emergency personnel and continuous communications, the satellite positioning systems, the escorts and all required for the shipment vehicles.

3 I'm also aware that over 3,000 shipments have been made in the last 30 years safely. My concern is that some may see the opposition to Yucca Mountain as a way to shut down nuclear power plants. I read with great interest just in the last month a new report by the National Academy of Science on global warming which states, and I quote, "The warming trend in global-mean surface temperature observations during the past year is undoubtedly real and substantially greater than the rate of warming during the twentieth century." Nuclear power emits no greenhouse effects -- gases that can contribute to this effect and it also contributes an important 20 percent to our energy mix and electricity. It is interesting to note, however, of course, even if we did shut down those plants today, there is still nuclear waste that must be moved to a permanent location.

4 1 My other concern is as a rate payer, \$17 billion has been collected for this facility, and unfortunately less than half of it has been appropriated to the task at hand, and unfortunately the program is about 12 years behind schedule. I encourage the timely completion of this disposal process so that spent nuclear fuel can be safely transported and stored in a consolidated location. Thank you for your time.

cont.